

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SES-02 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05
/081 W

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R 161456Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PGOV EG
SUBJECT: NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

REF: CAIRO 19013

SUMMARY: SADAT'S PARTY ABSORBS MOST MEMBERS OF MISR
PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, BUT NONE OF ITS PROMINENT
FIGURES OR CABINET MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. MP'S. SADAT'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) ABSORBED
286 MEMBERS OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AT AUGUST 15 MEETING.
ALL BUT 11 WERE PREVIOUSLY MEMBERS OF PM SALEM'S 318-
MEMBER CENTER PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. AS REPORTED IN
PRESS, NONE OF THOSE WHO JOINED WERE MEMBERS OF CABINET
OR OTHERWISE PROMINENT. NOTABLE BY THEIR ABSENCE WERE
SADAT'S CONFIDANTS OSMAN AHMED OSMAN AND SAYED MAREI,
AS WELL AS MAMDUH SALEM HIMSELF.

2. CONTROVERSY. REPORTEDLY, THERE WAS A BRIEF FLURRY
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OF INTENSE DEBATE WHEN A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY CHALLENGED RIGHT OF MISR PARTY MEMBERS AUTO-
MATICALLY TO JOIN NDP. SECRETARY GENERAL EBEID, CALLING
FORMER MISR MP'S "SOLDIERS OF SADAT," RULED IN THEIR
FAVOR.

3. MUBARAK. SPEAKING TO SAME MEETING, SADAT SELECTED

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK AS DEPUTY PARTY LEADER, REPRESENTING THE "OCTOBER GENERATION." MUBARAK'S SPECIFIC DUTIES WERE NOT LISTED BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR HE WILL BE NUMBER TWO IN PARTY, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT.

4. PROGRAM. CAIRO UNIVERSITY RECTOR SUFI ABU TALEB OUTLINED NEW PARTY PROGRAM. (FINAL VERSION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL NEXT WEEK.) NDP WILL STRESS INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND HOUSING, THEMES PROMINENT IN SADAT'S EARLIER ADDRESS. PARTY WILL ATTEMPT TO EXTEND SOCIAL INSURANCE, RAISE MINIMUM WAGE, REDUCE COST OF LIVING, CONTINUE SUBSIDIES ON BASIC COMMODITIES, MAINTAIN OPEN DOOR, AND DECENTRALIZE EGYPTIAN INDUSTRY. ABU TALEB SAID PUBLIC SECTOR SHOULD BE LIMITED TO HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DISTRIBUTION OF BASIC GOODS. LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ARE INCLUDED IN PARTY PLATFORM, BUT THEY ARE NOT HIGH ON LIST OF PRIORITIES AS PRINTED BY PRESS.

5. PRESS. PARTY FORMED COMMITTEE, HEADED BY AHAM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALI HAMDI EL GAMAL, TO DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MAKING PRESS THE "FOURTH ESTATE." FROM EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH EBEID, WE UNDERSTAND THIS WILL INVOLVE SELLING ASU-CONTROLLED JOURNALS TO THEIR WORKERS, WITH STRICT LIMITATION ON PERCENTAGE OF STOCK ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL CAN BUY. ELTS
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NNN

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